UNITED NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference on Trade and

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/WP/108
10 July 1998

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Thirty-second session
Geneva, 21 September 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA 1/

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

4. Evaluation of technical cooperation programmes: In-depth study on the Trade Point Programme

5. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Working Party

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board.

1/ As approved by the Working Party on 8 May 1998.

GE.98-51074

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. In accordance with rule 63 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, the Working Party shall elect its own officers. Following the thirty-first session of the Working Party, and in accordance with the cycle of rotation, the Chairman at its thirty-second session shall be a representative of one of the States members in List A (Africa). The Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur shall be a representative of one of the States members in list C (Latin America and the Caribbean Group).

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Working Party as approved on 8 May is in section I above. A note on the organization of work of the session will be circulated at the opening of the meeting.

TD/B/WP/108 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3 - Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

3. The report on technical cooperation activities, which is being submitted to both the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fifth session and to the Working Party at its current session, has three parts:

An overview of technical cooperation activities (TD/B/45/6-TD/B/WP/109). This document provides information on recent developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, including the mobilisation of extrabudgetary resources and cooperation between UNCTAD and other organizations. Further to a request by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fourth session, the document includes information on the financial self-sustainability of technical cooperation activities and reports on ways and means of increasing the predictability of funding for the technical cooperation programme of UNCTAD, including cost recovery.

Annex 1 - Review of activities undertaken in 1997 (TD/B/45/6-TD/B/WP/109/Add.1 (English only)). The information, which is organized on a programme-by-programme basis, describes the activities undertaken by UNCTAD in 1997 and their impact and results.

Annex 2 - Statistical tables (TD/B/45/6-TD/B/WP/109/Add.2 (English only)). These tables provide information on trends in expenditures, on financial contributions and on technical cooperation projects.

4. Following its review, the Working Party may wish to recommend to the Board at its forty-fifth session a draft decision providing guidance on UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities.

Item 4 - Evaluation of technical cooperation programmes: In-depth study on the Trade Point Programme

5. At its twenty-fourth session, the Working Party decided that in future annual reviews of technical cooperation, the UNCTAD secretariat should submit to it an in-depth study on a technical cooperation programme of UNCTAD "which will allow the Working Party to better evaluate the programme, recommend follow-up action and enhance UNCTAD's comparative advantages". At its thirtieth session, the Working Party decided "to consider an in-depth evaluation of the Global Trade Point Network at the thirty-second session of the Working Party in 1998 dealing with technical cooperation". At its second session, the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development agreed that "a rapid internal evaluation of the Trade Point Programme should be carried out as soon as possible in order to allow the secretariat to adjust and refine its work in this important area. Potential donors are encouraged to contribute to the financing of such an exercise". At its thirty-first session, the Working Party included on its provisional agenda for the thirty-second session consideration of the evaluation of the Trade Point Programme. On this item, the Working Party will have before it the evaluation report on the Trade Point Programme undertaken by an outside independent evaluation team and, as appropriate, any related comments that the secretariat may wish to make. The report will be considered by the Working Party at its resumed session in December.

Item 5 - Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Working Party

6. The UNCTAD secretariat will submit to the Working Party for its consideration a draft provisional agenda for its thirty-third session.

In-session documentation

Item 6 - Other business

Item 7 - Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

7. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, taking into account the proceedings of the final (closing) plenary meeting, for submission to the Trade and Development Board.